

NO JOY FOR THE ENGLAND SELECTOR

BY 'NOVA'

Woking 2,

Wycombe Wanderers 0

ENGLAND amateur selector

Mr. W. H. Webster made one of the biggest mistakes of his life on Saturday, when he visited Woking to watch Woking's Isthmian League game with Wycombe Wanderers. If he had known what was in store for him I am sure he would have stayed home — as most spectators probably wished they had after the game!

Quite honestly Mr. Webster would have been better employed watching a youth team match on an adjoining pitch, for I understand they at least showed some of the simple rudiments of the game.

Since Woking supporters claimed that it could not have been their players who were under the microscope, it is safe to presume the England selector was watching Wycombe players—probably wing men Paul Hodges and Len Worley.

Well, Mike Candey and Brian Harvey do not have to worry about retaining their positions on this showing for both the Wycombe wingers were subdued and could hardly have impressed the selector.

That they did not show all their usual talents was due in no small way to the service they received. George Pullin was willing but his passes were not incisive enough. Charlie Gale, in contrast to last season, again looked happiest when defending.

BRIGHT SPOTS

But there were a few bright spots in the game. John Beck, for instance, made a fine comeback, confounding all criticisms levelled at the defensive side of his play. He tackled magnificently and covered both Roystone and Lewis. Only late in the game, when his side were already two goals down, did he go on some of his upfield excursions.

Then there was the sight of that wily veteran Charlie Mortimore relying on fine positional sense and years of experience to dictate the home side's attacks. All the wild kicking and poor distribution of most of the other players only served to underline his value to the side.

If only Wycombe had someone in their forward line like him—someone able to coax, encourage and demonstrate!

But the most remarkable thing about this game was that even the Woking supporters realised that if Wycombe had clicked the home favourites would have been annihilated. The class and ability of players like Gale, Pullin, Horseman, and Thomas filtered through occasionally like rays of sunshine in the middle of winter.

MISSED CHANCES

Goals in the 53rd minute from Tindall, after a superb right-wing cross, and from Wooler eight minutes later gave Woking the points.

Wycombe had several chances but the nearest they went to scoring was when a subdued Bassett and then Thomas hit the posts with shots. Gale, Pullin and Horseman — Wycombe's most consistently dangerous forward — all had good efforts saved early on before Lewis kicked a shot off his own line after a rare mistake by the alert Phil Patrick.

Paul Hodges shot wildly when in excellent position just after the interval—and that, so far as the Wanderers' attacks were concerned, was that. Not even Woking's goals could stir their arrogant calm.

So, for only the third time this season, Wycombe failed to score and Tony Horseman's run of scoring in the last seven league games also came to an end—all against a side fourth from bottom of the table.

Woking—B. Farris; B. Fuller, Barry Arnold; E. Pearce, A. French, J. Collingwood; C. Mortimore, D. Metherall, R. Wooler, E. Tindall, Brian Arnold.

Wycombe—P. Patrick; J. Beck, A. Lewis; G. Pullin, P. Roystone, C. Gale; L. Worley, D. Thomas, D. Bassett, T. Horseman, P. Hodges.